ग्रुप V—(डी-1) वेतन प्रति माह रु० 4500/- से 5899/- के बीच

Modernisation of railway system

*45. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans drawn up and being implemented to modernise the railway system; and

(b) the details of the progress made during the last five years in respect of modernisation of railway track, telecommunications, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Some of the noteworthy plans drawn up and implemented, and under implementation for modernising the Railway system in the VIII Plan period are as under:

The Computerised Passenger Reservation System, has been expanded to a large number of locations. During the VIII Plan, the total number of computerised reservation locations has increased from 65 as on 31.3.92 to 271 as on 31.3.96, thus, covering over 92% of the total reservation work load on Indian Railways. It is planned to bring about further improvement in the reservation services by introducing networking arrangements.

Computerisation has been introduced in other areas of railway working including accounting work, certain aspects of personnel management, inventory control, wagon census and interchange, reservation enquiry system, etc.

High-powered Electric and Diesel Locomotives are being imported with transfer of technology for ultimate indigenisation for production. Main Line Electric Multiple Units and Diesel Multiple Units have been introduced on high density traffic routes for the convenience of suburban passengers.

A high speed coach capable of 160 kmph. speed is under trial.

Latest design concrete sleepers, modern rail fastenings and head-hardened rails are being utilised to strengthen the track. Track maintenance is being increasingly mechanised.

Electrification of the high density traffic corridors is being continued.

For enhancing safety, Auxiliary Warning System, Route Relay Interlocking, Solid State Interlocking, Track Circuiting are being extended over the system.

Modernisation of telecommunications include gradual switching over from analog systems to digital systems, which include digital microwave, optical fibre and digital telephone exchanges. Microprocessor based public address system informing passengers on platforms about the status of the train running is being provided at important stations. Railways are also introducing universal train radio communication system between driver, guard and the nearest station to enable immediate response in case of emergencies/ accidents.

Construction of stadia for the National Games in Bangalore and Mysore

*49. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Games will be held in Bangalore as per the revised schedule or they will be postponed again; and

(b) whether Government propose to come forward to help the Government of Karnataka to complete the construction of the stadia which has stopped due to shortage of funds and help the National Games to be held in time?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) The National Games will be held in Bangalore and Mysore from 8th to 19th December, 1996 as informed by the Karnataka Government.

(b) The Central Government has taken a decision to sanction block grant of Rs. 8.00 crores for completing the construction of stadia to hold the National Games in time.

Introduction of more "Palace on Wheels" trains

*50. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: